

Panel Discussion on Stressors in the Delta

Summary: Several local experts will provide input on ecosystem stressors in support of development of the Sixth Staff Draft Delta Plan.

At the request of Councilmember Fiorini, the Delta Science Program invited four local experts to provide their insights on Delta stressors to the Delta Stewardship Council in support of improving the Delta Plan Chapter 5, Restore the Delta Ecosystem and Chapter 6, Improve Water Quality to Protect Human Health and the Environment.

The Delta Independent Science Board in its January 26, 2011 memorandum to the Council stressed the importance of evaluating stressors based on their linkage to management objectives. To help frame this discussion the panelists have been asked to keep in mind the goal of protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem and the direction on the characteristics of a healthy Delta ecosystem provided by the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009:

85302(c) The Delta Plan shall include measures that promote all of the following characteristics of a healthy Delta ecosystem.

- (1) Viable populations of native resident and migratory species.*
- (2) Functional corridors for migratory species.*
- (3) Diverse and biologically appropriate habitats and ecosystem processes.*
- (4) Reduced threats and stresses on the Delta ecosystem.*

The panelists have been asked to draw upon their expertise to respond to three questions:

- 1) What are the primary stressors to the Delta ecosystem and why?
- 2) Which agencies or entities are responsible for addressing these stressors?
- 3) What actions do you recommend taking to alleviate these stressors?

Council members and staff will incorporate the input from the panelists into the Sixth Staff Draft Delta Plan to better address the multiple stressors affecting the Delta ecosystem.

The four panelists are Ellen Hanak, Senior Policy Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California; Chris Foe, Staff Environmental Scientist, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; Carl Wilcox, Regional Manager, Bay-Delta Region, California Department of Fish and Game; and Bruce Herbold, Fisheries Biologist, U.S. EPA Region 9. These experts can cover the broad spectrum of ecosystem stressors including water quality impairment, diversions and altered flow, insufficient habitat quality and quantity, and non-native invasive species effects including predation and food web impacts.

Contact

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